Carri, Rev. Henry (Superior, St. Michael's College) Oct 1915 - May 1916
(42)

April 24th, 1916

Rev. Father Carr,

St. Michael's College.

Dear Father Carr:

I have just heard from President Stanley Mackenzie of Dalhousie, who is acting as Secretary of the Conference of Universities, that he is expecting me to notify you that there will be a meeting of the Conference at McGill University on Tuesday, May 22nd. Each of our constituent federated Arts Colleges will have the right to send one member. I will also nominate two from the University as a whole.

Will you kindly let Sir William Peterson know who will represent your College ?

Yours sincerely,

President.

October 22nd, 1915

Rev. Principal Carr,

St. Michael's College,

Toronto.

My dear Principal Carr

I am sure that the contribution made by the Faculty of St. Michael's College represents as great a sacrifice as that represented by the contribution of any other College or Faculty in the University. It is not a question of amount so much as of spirit.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE

TORONTO May, 10, 1916.

R. A. Falconer, LL.D., C.M.G.,
President,
The University of Toronto.

Dear Mr. President:

Conditions, present and of the past few years, have convinced the Council of St. Michael's College that the time has come for St. Michael's to place herself in a position in no way inferior to the other Arts Colleges and thus accelerate to the full the developement of higher education for Catholics of the province not only in Arts but in the other faculties as well.

We have a petition to the Board of Governors and as it is of vital interest to the university as a whole, we respectfully ask you to offer it for us. We feel the utmost confidence that the Board will do all in its power.

If this petition is granted, a few years will see St. Michael's College and the University of Toronto the natural and acknowledged centre of university work for all Catholics of this province. This has always been the aim of the university but hitherto it has not been realized. More than this, a fairly careful study in the last few years of university conditions for Catholics in other parts of the world emboldens me to make what will appear an extravagant statement, that a comparatively short time could make St. Michael's College the greatest Catholic educational centre in the world.

If any unforeseen reason should render impossible the granting of this petition, the delay thereby forced

upon us would almost certainly result in the launching of a new scheme, at present under way and with very strong backing, which would have as one of its main objects to prevent, as far as possible, any Catholics from attending the University of Toronto.

The present want of St. Michael's is a completely new material equipment, lecture and administration building, library, chapel, dining hall, auditorium and residences for students in all faculties. We cannot buy the site and erect these buildings. Our request is, then, that the Board of Governors do for St. Michael's what they have done for Victoria and Trinity, that they give us a site ground rent free.

The lease of the Jones property, bounded on three sides by Queen's park, St. Alban's and Sussex Sts., is at present on the market and we have secured an option on it. If given this property ground rent free or nominal, we will secure the lease and build a building which will be a credit to the University. It can reasonably be expected that this effort on the part of St. Michael's will arouse interest, pride and support among wealthy well-wishers sufficient to enable us to complete the whole plan. This would necessarily involve that whole block and there would have to be an assurance that St. Michael's would have rights towards securing the other properties.

The only difficulty so far, seems to be that the university would be losing the revenue it at present receives from these properties. To this it might be answered that if St. Michael's had been in her present condition twenty-five or thirty years ago, the university would have gladly given what is

now asked for either in this site or in another equivalent, and so the university has received revenues during these years from our inability to proceed. Secondly, if this plan goes through the revenues of the university will undoubtedly be increased many times the revenue lost, in fees from Catholic students in all faculties. In the Faculty of Medicine a student pays $150.00 per year. It would not require much increase to balance the loss of rent. Lastly, even though the loss were absolute, it would be negligible in comparsion with the advance made towards realizing the desire of the university to satisfy all classes and creeds and it would be only treating St. Michael's as the other Arts colleges have been treated.

The Board of Governors will help us if it can give an answer in the near future, as the value of the lease may be increased if we are not in a position to act at the expiration of the option on May 29.

With perfect confidence in the Board of Governors' willingness to co-operate to the extent of its powers and thanking you for your kind interest, I am

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) H. Carr.

BURSAR'S OFFICE
F. A. MOURÉ, BURSAR.

333

TORONTO

13 May, 1916.

The President,

University of Toronto.

Dear Mr. President:

I enclose a copy of the letter from St. Michael's College which was read at the meeting of the Board on Thursday last, and referred to a Committee consisting of -

The Chairman
The Vice-Chairman, and
Yourself.

Yours faithfully,

ENCL.

F. A. Mouré

Bursar.